

Message Text

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ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7044

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD, AU

SUBJECT: NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES: AUSTRIAN CANDIDACY FOR
PARTICIPATION IN MINISTERIAL AND COMMISSIONS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

1. STATE SECRETARY VESELSKY INFORMED US TODAY THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS NOT DECIDED TO PURSUE AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN CIEC MORE VIGOROUSLY. VESELSKY SAID THAT CHANCELLOR FELT VERY STRONGLY ON THIS ISSUE AND HAD ASKED VESELSKY TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO US WITH THE REQUEST THAT THEY BE BROUGHT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ATTENTION. VESELSKY REPORTED THAT CHANCELLOR HAD INSTRUCTED FOREIGN MINISTRY TO CONVEY AUSTRIAN POSITION TO OECD MEMBERS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE PREPCON AND THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOW BEING SENT TO AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

2. CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S ARGUMENTS AS CONVEYED TO US BY VESELSKY ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) AUSTRIA SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A SPECIAL CASE SINCE IT IS NOT ONLY A CONSUMER BUT ALSO A PRODUCER COUNTRY (APPROXIMATELY 25-30 PERCENT OF AUSTRIAN CRUDE OIL REQUIREMENTS ARE MET FROM WELLS WITHIN AUSTRIA). (B) OF THE THREE NEUTRALS (SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA), AUSTRIA WAS FIRST TO AGREE TO JOIN IEA AND SUBSEQUENTLY LED THE WAY IN RESOLVING MATTER OF NEUTRALITY RESERVATION WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL THREE COUNTRIES TO BECOME MEMBERS.

(C) ASIDE FROM FACT THAT VIENNA IS LOCATION OF OPEC SECRETARIAT, AUSTRIA HAS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, NORTH AND SOUTH, AND PARTICULARLY WITH OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN NEAR EAST. VESELSKY CLAIMED AUSTRIA HAD SUPPORT OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES FOR ITS CLAIM TO PARTICIPATE. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, AND SINCE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WILL BE DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING, KREISKY FEELS STRONGLY THAT AUSTRIA COULD MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IN HELPING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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RESOLVE ISSUES OR CONTROVERSIES. (D) ONE REASON FOR GOA DECISION TO JOIN IEA WAS STRONG DESIRE TO BRING ABOUT DIALOGUE AND RESOLUTION OF NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. NOW THAT THIS IS HAPPENING, IF AUSTRIA WERE NOT TO BE REPRESENTED AND COULD NOT SPEAK FOR ITSELF, GOA WOULD RE-EXAMINE ITS MEMBERSHIP IN IEA AND WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN SEPARATELY AS THE DIALOGUE PROCEEDS.

3. VESELSKY SAID THAT DESPITE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH SWITZERLAND, WHICH HE EMPHASIZED WOULD CONTINUE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, GOA DID NOT FEEL THAT ANOTHER COUNTRY COULD REEEEEEPRESENT ITS VIEWS IN WHAT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MEETINGS THAT HAS BEEN HELD IN MANY YEARS. IN THIS CONNECTION VESELSKY RECALLED THAT AUSTRIA WAS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THUS IN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SITUATION THAN SWITZERLAND. VESELSKY CONTINUED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FREQUENT CONTACTS AT WORKING LEVELS BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA, THERE HAD BEEN NO EFFORTS AT HIGHER LEVELS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT IN ANY CASE CHANCELLOR AND GOA WERE NOW FIRMLY CONVINCED OF NEED TO PRESS THEIR OWN CANDIDACY.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING CONFIRMS MY IMPRESSION THAT HAVING LOST OUT ON VIENNA AS A SITE FOR CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR KREISKY WOULD PRESS AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION WITH VIGOR (VIENNA 8316). WE HAVE TOLD VESELSKY THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE NUMBER 27 IS FIRM. I HAD HOPED THAT SWISS AND AUSTRIANS WOULD WORK OUT AN UNDERSTANDING ON PARTICIPATION, BUT I NOW DOUBT THAT THIS IS FEASIBLE IN VIES OF GOA'S POSITION AND PARTICULARLY CHANCELLOR'S STRONG PERSONAL FEELINGS ON THE MATTER, AS CONVEYED BY VESELSKY. BUCHANAN

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